

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Groups I and II are sufficiently related so as to not be unduly burdensome on the Examiner to maintain in the pending application. As such, Applicants request that all of the claims be maintained in the pending application.

In the event that no generic claim is held to be allowable, Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the claims of Group I, Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 21-31, with traverse. Applicant specifically reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of the claims of Group II, Claims 14-20 in further applications and authorizes the Examiner to cancel the claims of Group II in this application if the restriction requirement is maintained.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes that personal contact would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 3, 2003



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